

## **Course Title:**

### **Preventing Fraud and Embezzlement in Optometry Practices**

**1 hour**

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## **Course Description:**

This course provides healthcare professionals with the knowledge and tools to identify, prevent, and respond to fraud and embezzlement within medical practices.

Participants will explore real-world examples, internal control frameworks, and actionable strategies to safeguard financial assets and maintain operational integrity.

## **Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Identify key elements and types of occupational fraud and asset misappropriation.
2. Understand and apply the COSO framework for internal controls.
3. Recognize red flags and vulnerabilities specific to healthcare practices.
4. Implement best practices for fraud prevention and mitigation.
5. Evaluate fraud mitigation technologies and banking solutions.

Course Modules:

Module 1: Introduction to Fraud in Healthcare

- Overview of fraud trends in healthcare
- Statistics from the AFP® 2024 Payments Fraud and Control Survey
- Impact of fraud on medical practices

Module 2: Types of Asset Misappropriation

- Funds theft (e.g., petty cash, redirected insurance claims)
- Payables theft (e.g., fake vendors, misuse of business credit cards)
- Payroll fraud (e.g., unauthorized raises, ghost employees)
- Other schemes (e.g., upcoding, fictitious claims)

Module 3: Internal Control Framework

- COSO framework components:
  - Control environment
  - Risk assessment
  - Control activities
  - Monitoring
  - Information & communication
- Benefits of implementing internal controls

#### Module 4: Challenges in Healthcare Practices

- Staffing limitations
- Staff duty separation
- Paper-based processes
- Check volume
- Oversight gaps
- Process inefficiencies

#### Module 5: Payment Fraud Trends and Vulnerabilities

- Fraud by payment type:
  - Checks
  - ACH debits/credits
  - wire transfers
- Reasons for transitioning away from checks

#### Module 6: Action Plan for Fraud Mitigation

- Reducing check usage
- Leveraging ACH
- Leveraging Positive Pay solutions
- Enhancing disbursement processes
- Updating policies and training staff

#### Module 7: Strengthening Internal Controls

- Background checks
- Secure handling of financial tools
- Dual control procedures
- Regular audits and reconciliations
- Employee awareness and education

#### Module 8: Fraud Mitigation Technologies

- ACH Positive Pay and Debit Block
- Reverse Positive Pay
- Check Positive Pay

- Universal Payment Identification Code (UPIC)
- Token-based transaction authorization

Q&A / Discussion